

REMARKS

By this Amendment the specification has been amended on pages 6 and 13 to correct obvious errors and on page 11 to clarify that the mentioned austenitic structure is austenitic steel having the FCC lattice structure, and claims 1-4 and 6 have been amended to better define the intended subject matter. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/55567.

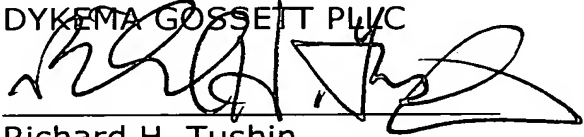
This rejection must be withdrawn. Although WO 00/55567 discloses an armour system which includes a strike plate 11, a backing plate 13 and an intermediate shock-absorbing layer made of metals (actually a metallic foam), there is no disclosure that the intermediate layer is made of a layer of nickel alloy or steel which has a face-centered cubic crystalline lattice (FCC lattice) structure. This is critical to the present invention.

The examiner's rejection must be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

By:

  
Richard H. Tushin  
Registration No. 27,297  
Franklin Square, Third Floor West  
1300 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3353  
(202) 906-8680